

Appendix A. Public Access Statute

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97A.141 Public water access sites.

Subdivision 1. **Acquisition; generally.** The commissioner shall acquire access sites adjacent to public waters and easements and right-of-way necessary to connect the access sites with public highways. The land may be acquired by gift, lease, or purchase, or by condemnation with approval of the executive council. An access site may not exceed seven acres and may only be acquired where access is inadequate.

Subd. 2. **Acquisition; limitations.** Access sites may not be acquired under this section adjacent to public waters that are unmeandered or completely surrounded by land owned and maintained for the purpose of an educational or religious institution. Access sites adjacent to public waters that contain less than 200 acres within the meander lines may not be acquired by condemnation and may only be acquired if

(1) the public water contains at least 150 acres within the meander lines; or

(2) the public waters are to be managed intensively for fishing.

Subd. 3. **Maintenance.** The commissioner shall maintain the sites, easements, and right-of-way acquired under this section. The commissioner may make an agreement for the maintenance of the site easements and rights-of-way with a county board if the connecting public highway is a county state-aid highway or county highway, or the town board if the connecting highway is a town road. The county board and town board may spend money from its road and bridge funds for maintenance under the agreement.

Subd. 4. **Cooperation with metropolitan governmental units.** Local units of government owning lands adjacent to public waters within the seven-county metropolitan area shall cooperate with the commissioner to use those lands for public access purposes when identified by the commissioner under subdivision 1. If cooperation does not occur, the commissioner may use condemnation authority under this section to acquire an interest in the local government lands for public access purposes.

Subd. 5. **Hunting generally prohibited.** A person may not hunt on water access sites unless allowed by rule of the commissioner.

HIST: 1986 c 386 art 1 s 27; 1991 c 254 art 2 s 26; 1991 c 259

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